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Approved For Release 2002/08/12 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000200030023-7

8 Jan 54

## STATUS OF ANGLO-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON SUEZ BASE

### BACKGROUND

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DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. IF  
X DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TO G C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 1-3-80 REVIEWER:

25X1

### Communist Strength:

#### I. In Egypt:

- A. Communist Party banned, but splinter groups total some 4,000 members.
- B. Most Communist sympathizers centered in Cairo and Alexandria.  
  
High proportion are from minority groups - Copts, Armenians, Greeks, and Italians.  
  
Some student groups also sympathetic to Communism.
- C. Military regime has strongly curtailed Communist activities.
- D. In past, some collaboration between Communists and Ultra-nationalist Moslem Brotherhood.

#### II In Iraq:

- A. Outlawed Communist Party has about 10,000 members; a maximum of 12,000-15,000 (or 0.3% of the 5,000,000 total population) may be under Communist influence.
- B. Party severely hampered by police repression.

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- C. Rising tide of anti-Western nationalism, coupled with substantial dissatisfaction with present regime offers exploitation opportunities.

III. In Syria:

- A. Probably some 2,500 hard-core Communists, members and sympathizers total 12,000 despite fact that party banned in 1947. Population - 3 1/2 million.
- B. Military dictatorship of Shishakli effectively curbs Communist activity; movement is not strong.

IV. In Jordan:

- A. Estimated strength of illegal Jordanian Communist Party is 6,000 members, concentrated in Jerusalem and other parts of West Jordan.
- B. Poor economic conditions, aggravated by presence of 450,000 Arab refugees - constituting 1/3 of country's total population - have encouraged spread of Communism and considerably hampered government's efforts to curtail Communism.

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C. Reports in last few months point to rise in Communist  
activity.

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